

Message Text

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ACTION EB-11

INFO OCT-01 EA-11 ISO-00 CAB-09 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00

DOT-00 INR-11 NSAE-00 RSC-01 FAA-00 L-03 SSO-00

INRE-00 DRC-01 SS-20 NSC-07 /075 W

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O 121300Z SEP 74

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE NIACT 6705

INFO AMCONSUL HONG KONG

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E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: EAIR, TH

SUBJECT: CIVAIR: TERMINATION OF PAA 841/842

REF: STATE 199671

1. WE RELAYED SUBSTANCE OF REFTEL TO UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE FOR COMMUNICATIONS, DR. SIRILAK CHANTHARANGSU, SEPT 12. NONETHELESS, AS MATTERS STAND NOW, PAA'S AUTHORITY TO OPERATE FLIGHTS 841/842 EXPIRES AT MIDNIGHT TONIGHT (SEPT 12). ONLY IMMEDIATE HOPE ON HORIZON IS PROMISE EXTRACTED BY ECON/CML COUNSELOR FROM DR. SIRILAK TO SUMMON INTERMINISTERIAL COMMITTEE MEETING AT 1000 HOURS SEPT 13 TO CONSIDER (1) EMBASSY REQUEST THAT AUTHORITY TO OPERATE FLIGHTS 841/842 BE EXTENDED TEMPORARILY PENDING RESULTS OF UPCOMING CONSULTATIONS, AND (2) RTG PREFERENCE FOR DATE TO RESUME TALKS. SIRILAK TO INFORM EMBASSY OF DECISIONS REACHED AT THAT MEETING.

2. SPEAKING WITHOUT MALICE, DR. SIRILAK, WHO CHAIRED THAIDEL TO JUNE TALKS HERE, SAID THAT USG HAD BROKEN PROMISE GIVEN BY USDEL IN JUNE TO RESUME TALKS IN SEPT, AND THAT, AS RESULT, INTERMINISTERIAL COMMITTEE ON SEPT 5 HAD TAKEN DECISION TO RESCIND SPECIAL AUTHORITY GIVEN PAA IN SPRING TO OPERATE 841/842. PRIOR STEP, DR. SIRILAK SAID, HAD BEEN TAKEN IN ORDER CREATE FRIENDLY AND LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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RECEPTIVE ATMOSPHERE FOR JUNE TALKS; IN PRACTICE, DR. SIRILAK

SAID, USG HAD NOT ACKNOWLEDGED THAI GESTURE. (IN MORNING DISCUSSION SUBORDINATE TO DR. SIRILAK DESCRIBED JUNE TALKS AS "COMPLETE FAILURE" IN WHICH USDEL HAD PROVED INSENSITIVE TO THAI INTERESTS AND CREATED IMPRESSION OF BEING IN A HURRY TO WIND UP BANGKOK TALKS IN ORDER TO BE ON TIME FOR "MORE IMPORTANT" TALKS ELSEWHERE.) IN REGARD UPCOMING TALKS, DR. SIRILAK SAID HE DOES NOT BELIEVE USDEL WILL COME PREPARED TO GIVE THAILAND WHAT IT NEEDS AND DESERVES IN WAY OF ROUTE RIGHTS, AND THAT IF SUCH PROVES TO BE THE CASE, U.S. AIRLINES CAN EXPECT "SOMETHING WORSE" THAN TERMINATION OF 841/842. ECON/CML COUNSELOR ASSURED DR. SIRILAK THAT USDEL HAD GIVEN ONLY TENTATIVE UNDERTAKING TO RETURN TO BANGKOK IN SEPT AND THAT DEPARTMENT HAD DONE ITS BEST TO SCHEDULE NEW TALKS AT EARLY DATE (DR. SIRILAK WAS NOT CONVINCED).

3. EMBASSY HAS INFORMED PAA REP OF FOREGOING. HE IS ADVISING PAA NEW YORK TO MAKE TENTATIVE PLANS TO DIVERT 841 WHICH ARRIVES BANGKOK AT 0905 SATURDAY, SEPT 14, AND DEPARTS AS 842 AT 1055 HOURS SAME DATE. (OTHER FLIGHTS OPERATE SAME TIMES MONDAY AND WEDNESDAY.)

4. COMMENT: IT WAS EVIDENT IN OUR DISCUSSIONS TODAY THAT THE THAIS ARE FED UP, AND NOW VIEW PRESSURE ON U.S. AIRLINES AS THE ONLY WAY IN WHICH THEY ARE GOING TO EXTRACT FROM USG SATISFACTION REGARDING WHAT THEY CONSTRUCT TO BE LEGITIMATE RTG AND THAI AIRLINE INTERESTS. WE WILL HAVE MORE TO SAY ON THAT IN SUBSEQUENT MESSAGES, BUT FOR THE MOMENT WE INTEND TO CONCENTRATE ON: (1) SECURING TEMPORARY EXTENSION OF PAA'S AUTHORITY FOR 841/842, AND (2) PREVENTING THIS COMMERCIAL PROBLEM, WHICH COULD AND SHOULD HAVE BEEN AVOIDED, FROM BLOSSOMING INTO AN INTERGOVERNMENTAL ISSUE. IN REGARD LATTER POINT, DEPARTMENT IS REQUESTED TO CAUTION PAA HOME OFFICE THAT, IN EVENT THAIS PROVE ADAMANT IN REGARD TERMINATION NOTICE, IT IS ESSENTIAL THERE BE NO SLIP UP BY PAA AIRCRAFT IN OBSERVING THIS PROHIBITION.

5. IN ORDER REDUCE LIKELIHOOD OF WHAT MAY WELL BE WRONG DECISION AT 1000 HOURS MEETING SEPT 13,
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WE WOULD LIKE TO TELL SIRILAK FIRST THING TOMORROW MORNING THAT U.S. NEGOTIATORS PREPARED TO ARRIVE BANGKOK BEFORE END SEPTEMBER. IN VIEW SHORT TIME, REPLY NIACT IMMEDIATE OR BY TELEPHONE.
KINTNER

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